



CLEAN VERSION OF THE PENDING CLAIMS

- (Thrice Amended) A purified and isolated Osteoclastogenesis Inhibitory Factor (OCIF) binding protein comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 and SEQ ID NO: 16, wherein said OCIF-binding protein promotes osteoclast differentiation and maturation.
80. (Thrice Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding an OCIF-binding protein, said nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 15, and SEQ ID NO: 18.
84. (Once Amended) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 80, wherein said OCIF-binding protein comprises amino acid residues 76-316 of SEQ ID NO: 1.
85. (Once Amended) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 80, wherein said OCIF-binding protein comprises amino acid residues 72-316 of SEQ ID NO: 1.
87. (Once Amended) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 80, wherein the protein encoded by said nucleic acid suppresses the biological activity of OCIF.
90. A method of recombinantly producing OCIF-binding protein, comprising expressing the nucleic acid of claim 80 in a host cell.